



## Sunday Gospel Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is moved with compassion for a leper; an outcast of society. The leper, whose faith in Jesus brings him to ask for healing, is so moved by this sign of God's love that he tells the Good News everywhere he goes. Jesus shows that God's love is for all people. We are called to do the same. During Lent, the Church asks us to pray, sacrifice, and help. You can begin by participating in the Mass in whatever way your family is able on Ash Wednesday. Keep talking about ways your family can pray, make sacrifices, and reach out to others.

## Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** If you have a heart decoration or valentine, hold it in your hand while saying a short prayer of thanks to God for someone you love. Allow your child to hold the heart/valentine and do the same. Finish with the Sign of the Cross.
- Cover Activity • We Show Love by Reaching Out (page 1)** Look at the picture on the cover together and **ask**: What do you think is happening here? *People are making loving gestures towards one another and sharing gifts.* Read the title together. Start at top left and take turns describing the person and what he or she is giving to the next person. Invite your child to color the hearts next to those people who are reaching out to someone. Talk about how your family might answer the question about how to reach out.
- Saint Story • Father Damien Reached Out to Lepers (page 2)** Point out Father Damien in the pictures. Explain that Molokai is in Hawaii. Search for it together on a world map. Read the story aloud together by switching at each paragraph.
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the story.** Help your child think beyond physical needs when answering the second question.

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Reaches Out and Heals (page 3)** Before reading the Gospel story together, invite your child to listen for who gave Father Damien the idea about caring for lepers.
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the Gospel.** 2. *Help your child see that by healing the man, Jesus reconnected him to his family and community. Jesus' healings also included forgiveness of sins.* **Ask**: How was Father Damien like Jesus? Invite your child to tell of other people who reach(ed) out to people. *Saint Teresa of Kolkata (Calcutta), people who work or volunteer in homeless shelters and soup kitchens, missionaries who go to other lands, people who teach at Catholic schools and parishes.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 4)** Read "Jesus Includes Everyone." Explain that lepers and those troubled by bad or unclean spirits were outcasts in Jesus' time. Jesus models for us that we are to love *all* people.
- Catholic Faith Word • Lent (page 3)** Read aloud the definition of *Lent* together. Explain that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (2/17). **Ask**: What else do you know about Lent?



□ **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 18. Have your child find the paragraph about Lent and read it silently. **Ask:**

- What does Lent prepare us for? *The celebration of Jesus' Resurrection to new life at Easter.*
- What do we do during Lent? *Pray. Make sacrifices. Help others. Become more like Jesus in our thoughts and our actions. Ask God and others to forgive us.*
- What day does Lent begin? *Ash Wednesday.*
- What are the last three days of Lent called? *The Triduum (TRID-doo-um), which means "the three days."*
- What is the big feast at the end of Lent? *Easter!*

Have your child turn to page 57 (inside back cover) and look at the pie-chart illustration. Find the word *Lent* in one of the arrows and read aloud about Lent and the Triduum. Invite your child to color the Lent and Triduum sections. Then go to page 25 and help your child fill out the chart for Ash Wednesday and Easter.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.*

## Live the Gospel

- **Activity • How Can You Reach Out? (page 4)** Discuss the three stories. Explain that you will need to put yourselves in the other person's shoes and search your experiences to decide who can help, and how. Use your discussion to get your child thinking about situations around the house, at school, or in your extended family or neighborhood. Let your child take leadership in defining problems, deciding on ways to help, and then making a concrete plan to carry out.
- **Activity • My Lenten Commitment** Here are a few points you can use to discuss Lent.
  - At Ash Wednesday Mass, we receive ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads, a sign that we want to become better followers of Jesus during the forty days of Lent.
  - Many people make a special commitment to give up something like candy, TV, or video games. They may commit to doing something that helps others, like putting money in CRS Rice Bowl.
  - It is always a good Lenten practice to try to become more like Jesus—getting along with siblings, being respectful to parents, cooperating at school.

Explain that during Lent, adults and school-age children who are preparing to be baptized at Easter are in their final stage of preparation. Lent is a good time for those already baptized to think about how well we are following Jesus. Take some time together to think of how you will keep Lent. *Good News* provides activities to help you keep Lent, but it is a good idea to help your child start thinking ahead.

- **Closing Prayer • We Pray as Lent Begins (page 3)** Pray the prayer together by alternating the reading. Invite other family members to participate if available.



## Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to [pflaumweeklies.com/family](https://pflaumweeklies.com/family)  
Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture